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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|--|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/755,141 | 01/08/2004 | David A. Kapilow | 2002-0311 | 4769 |
| 26652 | 7590 | 08/24/2007 | EXAMINER | |
| AT&T CORP. ROOM 2A207 ONE AT&T WAY BEDMINSTER, NJ 07921 | | | CHAWAN, VIJAY B | |
| | | | ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
| | | | 2626 | |
| | | | MAIL DATE | DELIVERY MODE |
| | | | 08/24/2007 | PAPER |

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/755,141

Applicant(s)

KAPILOW ET AL.

Examiner

Vijay B. Chawan

Art Unit

2626

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-35 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-35 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. Figure 1 should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art-- because only that which is old is illustrated. See MPEP § 608.02(g). Corrected drawings in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Objections

2. Claims 16 and 18 are objected to because of the following informalities: Both the claims seem to be replicated as they appear to be the same. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1-35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Gasper et al., (5,278,943).

As per claim 1, Gasper et al., teach a method of generating a synthetic voice comprising:

receiving a user selection of a first text-to-speech (TTS) voice and a second TTS voice from a plurality of TTS voices (Col.4, line 53 – Col. 5, line 37);

receiving at least one user selected voice characteristic (Col.4, line 53 – Col. 5, line 37); and,

generating a new TTS voice and the second TTS voice and according to the user selected voice characteristic (Col.5, lines 50-64, Col.6, lines 58-65).

As per claim 2, Gasper et al., teaches the method of claim 1, further comprising: presenting the new TTS voice to the user for preview, receiving user-selected adjustments, and, presenting a revised TTS voice to the user for preview according to the user-selected adjustments (Col.5, lines 50-64, Col.6, lines 58-65).

As per claim 3, Gasper et al., teaches the method of claim 1, wherein generating the new TTS voice further comprises interpolating between corresponding segment parameters of the first TTS voice and the second TTS voice (Col.5, lines 50-64, Col.6, lines 58-65).

As per claim 4, Gasper et al., teaches the method of claim 1, wherein the user-selected voice characteristic relates to mis-pronunciations (Col.5, lines 50-64, Col.6, lines 58-65).

As per claim 5, Gasper et al., teaches the method of claim 3, wherein the segment parameters relate to prosodic characteristics (Col.5, lines 50-64, Col.6, lines 58-65).

As per claim 6, Gasper et al., teaches the method of claim 5, wherein the prosodic characteristics are selected from a group comprising pitch contour, spectral envelope, volume contour and phone durations (Col.5, lines 50-64, Col.6, lines 58-65).

As per claim 7, Gasper et al., teaches the method of claim 6, wherein the prosodic characteristics are further selected from a group comprising syllable accent, stress and emotion (Col.5, lines 50-64, Col.6, lines 58-65).

As per claim 8, Gasper et al., teaches the method of claim 1, wherein blending the first TTS voice and the second TTS voice further comprises extracting a prosodic characteristic from the LPC residual of the first TTS voice and the LPC residual of the second TTS voice and interpolating between the extracted prosodic characteristics (Col.4, line 53 – Col. 5, line 37).

As per claim 9, Gasper et al., teaches the method of claim 8, wherein the prosodic characteristic is pitch, wherein the interpolation of the extracted pitches from the first TTS voice and the second TTS voice generates a new blended pitch (Col.5, lines 50-64, Col.6, lines 58-65).

As per claim 10, Gasper et al., teaches a method of generating a synthetic voice, the method comprising: receiving a user selection of TTS voice and a voice characteristic, and presenting the user with a new TTS voice comprising the selected TTS voice blended with at least one other TTS voice to achieve the selected voice characteristic (Col.4, line 53 – Col. 5, line 37, Col.5, lines 50-64, Col.6, lines 58-65).

As per claim 11, Gasper et al., teaches the method of claim 10, further comprising: presenting the new TTS voice to the user for preview, receiving user-selected adjustments, and presenting a revised TTS voice to the user for preview according to the user-selected adjustments (Col.5, lines 50-64, Col.6, lines 58-65).

As per claim 12, Gasper et al., teaches the method of claim 10, wherein generating the new TTS voice further comprises interpolating between corresponding segment parameters of the first TTS voice and the at least one other voice (Col.5, lines 50-64, Col.6, lines 58-65).

As per claim 13, Gasper et al., teaches the method of claim 11, wherein the segment parameters relate to prosodic characteristics (Col.5, lines 50-64, Col.6, lines 58-65).

As per claim 14, Gasper et al., teaches the method of claim 13, wherein the prosodic characteristics are selected from a group comprising pitch contour, spectral envelope, volume contour and phone durations (Col.5, lines 50-64, Col.6, lines 58-65).

As per claim 15, Gasper et al., teaches the method of claim 14, wherein the prosodic characteristics are further selected from a group comprising syllable accent, stress and emotion (Col.5, lines 50-64, Col.6, lines 58-65).

As per claim 16, Gasper et al., teaches the method of claim 10, wherein the blended voice is generated by extracting a prosodic characteristic from the LPC residual of the first TTS voice and the LPC residual of the second TTS voice and interpolating between the extracted prosodic characteristics (Col.5, lines 50-64, Col.6, lines 58-65).

As per claim 17, Gasper et al., teaches the method of claim 10, wherein the user-selected voice is blended with a plurality of other TTS voices to generate the new TTS voice (Col.5, lines 50-64, Col.6, lines 58-65).

As per claim 18, Gasper et al., teaches the method of claim 10, wherein the blended voice is generated by extracting a prosodic characteristic from the LPC residual of the first TTS voice and the LPC residual of the second TTS voice and interpolating between the extracted prosodic characteristics (Col.5, lines 50-64, Col.6, lines 58-65).

As per claim 19, Gasper et al., teaches the method of claim 18, wherein the prosodic characteristic is pitch, wherein the interpolation of the extracted pitches from the first TTS voice and the second TTS voice generates a new blended pitch (Col.5, lines 50-64, Col.6, lines 58-65).

As per claim 20, Gasper et al., teaches the method of claim 10, wherein the voice characteristics relate to mispronunciations (Col.5, lines 50-64, Col.6, lines 58-65).

Claims 21-27 are system claims to implement the method of claims 1-10, and are similar in scope and content and are rejected under similar rationale.

Claims 28-35 are method claims similar in scope and content of claims 1-20 and are rejected under similar rationale.

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. See attached form PTO-892.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Vijay B. Chawan whose telephone number is (571) 272-7601. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday Through Friday 6:30-3:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richemond Dorvil can be reached on (571) 272-7602. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Art Unit: 2626

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Vijay B. Chawan
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2626

vbc
8/18/07

VIJAY CHAWAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER